

Thom McDaniel became a Southwest Airlines Flight Attendant and TWU Local 556 Member on June 25, 1992. He became interested in contract negotiations and began attending union meetings in 1996. After the 1997 contract, he decided to get more involved in the union with a goal of running for negotiating committee for the next contract.

Thom was elected First Vice President and took office on May 1, 2000. He became the Local 556 President approximately 1 year later. Thom was reelected as Local 556 President 3 additional times until deciding not to seek reelection in 2012. Thom served as Lead Negotiator for Local 556 on the 2002 and 2008 contracts and the 737-800 and AirTran Seniority Integration Side Letters. He is skilled in all aspects grievance and arbitration process. He assisted in the ratification of the 2016 Contract. He is currently in Section 6 Negotiations with Southwest and Allegiant Flight Attendants.

Since May 2012, Thom has worked for TWU International on organizing and Flight Attendant negotiations. He served as Lead Negotiator and establishing local unions for flight attendants at Allegiant, JetBlue, and Flight Services International.

Thom was elected as TWU International Vice President in 2005 and was reelected to that position in 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2021. He also currently serves on the TWU International Committee on Appeals and Civil and Human Rights Committee. Thom currently serves as the TWU International Representative for the Southwest, JetBlue, Allegiant, and Flight Services International flight attendants.

Thom lives in Houston with his husband Lance and their 5 feline children and enjoys travel, theater, friends and family. He also serves on the Texas State AFL-CIO Board of Directors, the National Pride at Work Board of Directors and is the President of Pride at Work Texas. Thom has been a member of the Texas Labor Management Conference Board of Directors since 2006 and has been inducted into the Texas Labor Management Hall of Fame. Thom has previously served on the Global Cabin Air Quality Executive studying toxic cabin air. Thom is on the AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) Board of Directors and has been a volunteer counselor at Camp Hope, an AFH sponsored summer camp for kids with HIV for the last 23 years.